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their scope". He treats the reign of Stephen quite briefly, and maintains against Mr. Round, whose conclusions Professor Adams accepts, the view of the anarchy which he has developed more fully in a recent number of the *English Historical Review*. In discussing the Great Charter Mr. Davis does not take account of the views of Professor Adams and Professor Maitland, according to which the most significant feature of the Charter lies in its assertion of the principle that the king is below the law. It would be interesting, did space permit, to follow out in detail the comparison of these two books, but enough has perhaps been said to show that they differ widely in general scope and in the treatment of particular topics and supplement each other in such a way that there is plenty of room for them both.

CHARLES H. HASKINS.

Chronicles of London. Edited with introduction and notes by CHARLES LETHBRIDGE KINGSFORD, M.A. (Oxford: Clarendon Press. 1905. Pp. xlviii, 368.)

THE chronicles printed in this volume set forth important events of local or national interest arranged under the names of the successive mayors and sheriffs of London. Mr. Kingsford mentions the instance of a Bristol chronicle of this type preserved in the *Kalendar* of Robert Ricart, who was town clerk of Bristol in the time of Edward IV. and who compiled his work at the bidding of the municipal corporation. But there were many mayors' chronicles or calendars in other boroughs besides Bristol to which Mr. Kingsford might have called attention, for example, at Chester, Coventry, Leicester, Plymouth, Shrewsbury, and York. They vary in fullness. Some are mere catalogues of mayors with meagre memoranda of municipal transactions, while others, especially those of London, widen into a narrative of national affairs, and are of considerable value for the history not merely of the city but also of the kingdom. In fact, London is the only English city which produced chronicles comparable with those of continental towns. The oldest are the *Liber de Antiquis Legibus*, written in Latin in 1274, and the French *Croniques*, compiled about the middle of the fourteenth century.

Mr. Kingsford has made a substantial addition to our knowledge of this branch of historical literature by editing three English chronicles of London from the Cottonian manuscripts in the British Museum. One of them, extending from 1189 to 1432, was written about the year 1435; another covers the period 1415 to 1443, the year in which it was probably written; and the third gives a narrative of events from 1216 to 1509, the early portion compiled about 1440, from which year it was continued by other writers. Down to the end of the reign of Henry IV. they have much matter in common and seem to have been derived from one original source, but from the year 1414 onward they were written contemporaneously with the events which they record. From them Fabyan, Hall, Holinshed, Arnold, Stow, and other later London

chroniclers derived much of their material, as Mr. Kingsford points out in detail in his introduction. He also indicates the method by which the old chronicles of London reached their present form, and shows that the main sources from which they were derived were private or official letters and civic or public documents. Moreover, he gives a detailed account of the contents of the chronicles which he edits, indicating the additions which they make to our knowledge of English history, especially in the fifteenth century.

The Vitellius Chronicle (1216-1509) is particularly interesting. Its value as one of the best contemporary sources for the study of the reign of Henry VII. has been recognized by Dr. Busch and other authorities. The accounts of the Cornish rising and of Perkin Warbeck are among the fullest that have come down to us. Under the year 1498 (p. 224) there is a passage concerning John Cabot, "a Straunger Venisian", which furnishes important evidence for the English discoveries in North America (see pp. 327-330).

Mr. Kingsford deserves much praise for the scholarly work displayed in this volume, which is provided with ample notes, a useful glossary, and a good index.

CHARLES GROSS.

Weltgeschichte seit der Völkerwanderung. Von THEODOR LINDNER, Professor an der Universität Halle. Vierter Band. *Der Stillstand des Orients und das Aufsteigen Europas: Die deutsche Reformation.* (Stuttgart and Berlin: J. G. Cotta'sche Buchhandlung Nachfolger. 1905. Pp. x, 473.)

WHEN a scholar of forty years' experience in critical investigation writes a *Weltgeschichte* which is avowedly an empirical interpretation of history, the event is not without significance in view of the widespread tendency to regard minute criticism as the only worthy task of the historian. In order to show how the volume under review illustrates the method and principles which underlie the whole work, it is necessary to go back to the preliminary volume, entitled *Geschichtsphilosophie*, for a brief summary of these principles.

History is the account of the development of human groups. This development results from the action of the opposite tendencies of change and persistence, which are never equal, so that there is always some movement. Natural and historical conditions and need are the underlying causes of these tendencies; and in them economic life, intellectual activity, and the state have about equal weight. Need, which is psychic as well as economic, is the force which leads to change. It gives rise to ideas, which are simply thoughts directed to the satisfaction of needs. The idea begins with the individual, not with the group; but it is effective only when taken up by a large number of men. The group is the element which makes for persistence. In it are felt the needs which give rise to the ideas. Great individuals may, with some truth, be said